Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* May I know whether it is suitable for diabetic patients ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Chief Medical Officer may be better able to answer that question.

POST-WAR PROBLEMS

43. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken for meeting the Post-War Problems of the State?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The question is engaging the attention of the Government.

44. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any steps are being taken to confront the Post-War Problems of the State;

(*b*) whether the Government have bestowed its mind on the question as to what will be those problems?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The questions are engaging the attention of the Government.

FREE COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL

45. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) had any non-official member of the Council sought for sanction from the Government for introducing a Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill in the Council;

(*b*) was sanction accorded; if not why not?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No; because it was considered that compulsion in the matter of primary education was not called for at present.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, what is the per centage of literacy according to the 1941 census ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Sir, exact figures are not available. I have not got the figures with me. I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would ask the Government, Sir, whether these questions have not been sent as long as 19th Mithunam 1118, regarding this and two other subjects, similar subjects, with a request that these questions may be kindly answered together, the percentage of literacy in the last census, the percentage of literacy in the 1931 census, the percentage of adult illiteracy in the State, all these questions were sent with the request that these may be answered together. Had not these questions been sent as early as 19th Mithunam ? Should not the Government have collected the statistics ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Hon'ble Member wanted this question to be answered before the Education Budget came up for discussion, and so this question was put for today. This question refers more to the refusal of sanction to introduce the bill; it was not so much about statistics and things like that. Therefore, I thought there would be no objection to answer that question separately.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* We appreciate the spirit in which the thing is taken up by the Government. In view of the answer to question (*b*) whether sanction was accorded and if not, why not, the answer is given "No; because it was considered that compulsion in the matter of primary education was not called for at present." I shall establish a clear case that it is called for today, if not much earlier. It was in that connection that I had put these questions. I wanted to show that the reply given by the Government refusing sanction is a reply which could not be expected from the Government of Cochin in such an important question like the introduction of compulsory primary education.

Mr. President : I would remind the Hon'ble Member that this is question time and remarks should take the form of questions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, Sir. What is the per centage of literacy according to the 1931 Census Report ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I said I want notice for these figures. If the Hon'ble Member's intention is to elicit an answer to the effect that there is no increase in literacy in the State, that is not so. There has been an increase in literacy as

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between the years 1931 and 1941 and when Government said that compulsion is not considered to be necessary at present, they meant as I tried to point out a few days ago, that every effort was being made to see whether by compulsion we can get maximum attendance at schools. We had tried the more obvious methods and we have not quite succeeded and we are trying other methods. We wanted to be sure if even without compulsion, attendance would not improve.

In the second place, conditions today are such that children who were attending schools in the normal conditions find it difficult to continue for economic reasons. These conditions must disappear and the present abnormal economic condition must also disappear in course of time, so that to base an argument on the present condition either of education or of employment, may not be quite correct. That is what the Government meant by saying they do not consider compulsion was necessary in the present state of affairs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the light of the answers given here and the failure on the part of the Government to answer these questions, I do not find any useful purpose will be served by my pursuing the matter further. I would, however, request that such important questions on Education may be answered before the Education Budget comes up.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know the ground for refusing the sanction ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Covernment)*: The answer is there.

Mr. President: The answer was given by the Hon'ble Member for Education

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, it is a matter affecting the privilege of the House. Under section 25 of the Government of Cochin Act, certain matters requires previous sanction. But this subject does not require sanction and it will be clear from the proceedings of this House, that there was a former bill, Compulsory Education Bill, which was considered by this House and referred to a Select Committee.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: And thrown out by the Select Committee.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Is it the policy of the Government that sanction will not be given ? Is that their policy ?

Mr. President: The question has already been answered by the Hon'ble Member for Edecation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Do you consider that compulsory primary education is not necessary ?

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member for Education has already explained the position.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I submit it is a very inconvenient question to answer.

TAPIOCA CONTROL

46. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the extreme hardship and inconvenience caused to the cultivators on account of the "Tapioca Control Order, 1118" recently promulgated by the Government;

(*b*) have Government considered the extreme difficulty or impossibility of drying tapioca in the rainy months, Edavam, Mithunam and Karkadagam; if so what steps are taken to relieve the cultivators in the matter;

(*c*) have Government considered the likelihood of such valuable tapioca crops being wasted in case the cultivators are not allowed to take the crops before floods set in?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) No. The tapioca Control Order does not cause any extreme hardship or inconvenience to cultivators. A little inconvenience may perhaps have been caused in as much as it has interfered slightly with the freedom of the people to dispose of their stuff freely. But this is inevitable in view of the present food position of the country.

(*b*) During the rainy months when it was found difficult to dry tapioca all possible facilities were rendered to the cultivators to move the stock to places where they could be sold.

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